

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/922,964

Examiner

Steven D. Maki

Applicant(s)

NEUGEBAUER ET AL.

Art Unit

1733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3-15-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-23,26-30,32 and 33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>031506</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Examiner's Amendment

1) An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Amend claim 32 as follows:

32. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a pneumatic tire, comprising:

providing a circumferentially extending tread pattern of a pneumatic tire with at least first and second circumferentially extending ribs, said ribs being located on opposite sides of a mid-circumferential plane of said tire, each rib containing a plurality of symmetrical tread blocks separated by laterally extending grooves, said tread blocks having sipes, said tread blocks having leading and trailing edges sidewalls symmetrical with respect to a first radial plane passing through a midpoint of said tread blocks and through an axis of rotation of the tire;

~~varying, until a residual aligning torque of the pneumatic tire is changed and a desired residual aligning torque is achieved,~~ varying an angle of inclination of the sipes with respect to a second radial plane passing through an outermost surface of the tread block and adjacent to the sipe and through an axis of rotation of the tire to change a residual aligning torque of the pneumatic tire until a desired residual aligning torque is achieved and such that an angled sipe is formed in each of the tread blocks, each angled sipe extending for a sipe lateral width and a radial depth at a substantially constant sipe angle of inclination between 2° and 15° with respect to a the second radial

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plane passing through an the outermost surface of the tread block and adjacent to the sipe and through an the axis of rotation of the tire;

wherein all sipes within said rib tread blocks on a first side of the mid-circumferential plane extend, ~~at least mostly across the entire width of said rib tread blocks,~~ at a first sipe angle of inclination with respect to said second radial plane for the sipe lateral width and the radial sipe depth, at least one sipe within each tread block on the first side of the mid-circumferential plane extending from one side of the block and across the center of the block to the other side of the block,

wherein all sipes within said rib tread blocks on a second side of the mid-circumferential plane extend, ~~at least mostly across the entire width of said rib tread blocks,~~ at a second sipe angle of inclination with respect to said second radial plane that is substantially equal to and opposite the first sipe angle for the sipe lateral width and the radial sipe depth, at least one sipe within each tread block on the second side of the mid-circumferential plane extending from one side of the block and across the center of the block to the other side of the block, and

~~forming the pneumatic tire with the desired residual aligning torque~~ forming a pneumatic tire such that said pneumatic tire has said angled sipes in said tread pattern.

In the specification:

on page 4 line 9, insert --At least one sipe within each tread block extends from one side of the block and across the center of the block to the other side of the block--.

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on line 13 of the amended paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 5 (see amendment filed 2-17-04), after "the leading and trailing" change "edges" to --sidewalls--

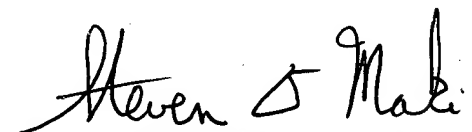
2) Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Adam Neff on 3-16-06.

3) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven D. Maki whose telephone number is (571) 272-1221. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Steven D. Maki
March 16, 2006


STEVEN D. MAKI
PRIMARY EXAMINER 3-16-06